

Menomonie Urban Forestry Board Minutes

March 20, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Mike Schendel (1 hr.)

Dennis Kropp (1 hr.)

Joe Jax (4.5)

Nancy Schofield (8 hrs.)

Mike Smith (1 hr.)

Others Present: Randy Eide, Bruce Heath, Dick Henning, John Johnson and Sue Hitz. Members of the public were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Joe Jax, Chair. Roll call was taken by passing around a sign-up sheet and recording the volunteer hours. Minutes of the previous meeting were sent to the committee prior to the meeting and were reviewed. A motion was made by Dennis Kropp and seconded by Nancy Schofield. Motion carried.

Lumberjack article: Excellent article.

Bench Acknowledgment Signage: Bob Giede and Nancy Schofield worked on the project. Nancy talked about the project in the absence of Bob Giede. Nancy had a sample. They decide to use green ash heart wood. Would like to locate the sign on the side of bench. The sample was laser cut.

Forestry Training for Urban Forestry Board: Some of the suggestions were:

- Guest speakers-taking ½ hour out of the training session
- Excuse City staff
- Maybe have the DNR appointee to speak (Dick Henning will make contact for the May 15th meeting)
- Pick out some of the topics used by Ohio Urban Forestry Boards (see attachment)

Items to add to the Agenda:

Dawn from Xcel explained their purpose of installing a new electrical substation. We discussed the Xcel Energy Project on the property at 403 Gabriel Court. Xcel is moving forward on April 4th. They will be attending the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. They are asking the Urban Forestry Board to minimize vegetation on the substation site in order to deter animal activity. If animals get inside the substation fence, they can make contact with live equipment causing outages. Other requests are found in their letter to the Urban Forestry Board letter, dated March 15, 2018. In the discussion they talked about the variance of the fence. Xcel has also requested that instead of planting nine trees and ten shrubs as part of the development that they would be willing provide the money to the City instead of planting the trees and shrubs. Please see attachment for more information.

Urban Forester Report: by John Johnson

Arbor Day is April 26th. Mike Schendel will contact Marie Young to speak about birds. John will email everybody with Arbor Day Celebrations information. Tree City Awards will be announced at the next meeting.

Tree Pruning: Done for the season due to running water and pot holes.

City Tree Removal and Replacement Policy Draft: Randy Eide made the draft. Tabled until the next meeting.

Park Superintendent Report: by Dick Henning

Dick reported on the Urban Forestry Conference and the classes that he attended. He thought it was an excellent conference.

City Council Report: by Randy Eide

- Student House Complex on 17th Ave.-Not approved yet

- 21st Street by Middle School-80 apartments-Went back to planning commission. Will discuss at the March 25th meeting

Items for the next meeting:

- Excel Project discussion. Consider Excel to plant trees and shrubs or provide money in lieu of.
- Arbor Day Celebration Plans
- City tree removal and replacement policy
- Training for Urban Forestry Board-possibly begin at the May meeting
- Promoting The City Tree Program with training. How many sold?

Adjournment: Nancy Schofield made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mike Schendel.

Next meeting: April 17th at 2 P. M., City Hall Conference Room

Minutes submitted by: Sue Hitz